

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Panoramic View Of World Today

From Time to Time, the International Scene Should Be Observed as a Whole

IN few periods of "peace" in American history have there been so many crises and disputes over such a large area of the world as has been the case since the end of the war. Hardly has one controversy been settled before another has broken out.

When we look back over the months covered by this school year, we realize that the world has been kept in an almost constant state of tension and turmoil by a series of seemingly endless conflicts. Civil war in China, frequent clashes over Germany, conflicts between the Dutch and natives in the Netherlands East Indies, communist seizure of the Czechoslovakian government, destructive revolt in Bogota, Colombia, civil war in Greece.

Since we are approaching the end of the school semester, it is a good time to review the trouble areas of the world today and see how each one fits into the larger international picture. The following article is presented as a guide to the news during the months ahead. It does not attempt to predict events which will take place, but it turns the spotlight on the nations and areas of key importance. The numbers we use in discussing each of these places correspond to those on the world map on pages 4 and 5.

1. A gigantic effort to promote the recovery of war-stricken nations is well under way in western Europe. The first year of the program will

(Continued on page 4)



TELEVISION'S POPULAR "AMERICANA" PROGRAM brings young people together for historical quizzes

Television Races Ahead

Spectacular Growth of the Last Few Years Is Expected to Continue Until "Video" Is Available for Homes in All Parts of the Country

SINCE World War II the American television—or video—industry has been growing by leaps and bounds. At the end of the war only about 7,000 receiving sets were in operation in this country. Early last year there were 17,000, and there are now about 300,000.

In January of this year, 30,000 receivers were produced. That was more than five times as many as were turned out in January 1947. Authorities estimate that the 1948 production of television sets will total about 600,000. Already about 40 million Americans live within reach of one or more sending stations.

Last month the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the U. S. government agency which regulates radio and television, listed the 22 television stations then broadcasting regularly. These were located in the following cities: New York, Washington, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Schenectady, St. Louis, St. Paul, and Richmond.

More than 70 additional transmitters are now under construction. Nearly 200 more companies want to build stations, and are awaiting the approval of the FCC. It is predicted

that, by the end of this year, the FCC will have approved stations for all U. S. population centers having at least 50,000 inhabitants.

Television networks, similar to those in the regular radio industry, are being developed. Programs are transmitted from one station to another by means of wireless relay systems or special cables, and then sent out to the receiving sets in thousands of homes. Broadcasters believe that within a year Chicago and the east coast will be linked together by such networks, and that by 1950 there will be coast-to-coast television hook-ups.

In the earliest stages of this industry, progress was held up by the high cost of receiving sets. Most families simply could not afford to pay the prices that were being asked.

Since the end of the war, however, more and more low-cost sets have been put on the market. Today, it is possible to purchase a receiver for about \$200, including the installation fee which is considerably higher than for radio. The better, large-screen sets, of course, run into more money, but the low-priced receivers are providing their owners with a great deal of satisfaction.

New kinds of devices, which can be obtained at moderate cost, are being put on the market to enlarge the pictures shown on small-screen sets. Some of these gadgets can double and triple the size of the pictures without losing too much of the original detail.

Recent surveys show that families with moderate incomes are buying a large proportion of the sets now being sold. As mass-scale production gets under way, of course, prices of television receivers can be reduced much more.

Television would probably be making (Concluded on page 7)

Disease or State of Mind?

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

WEBSTER'S dictionary defines spring fever as "the lazy, listless feeling which comes to persons with the first warm days of

spring." Then it adds the explanatory term, "humorous." The spring fever idea may be humorous today; at least it is usually so treated. But there was nothing funny about it half a century or more ago.

The spring lassitude was looked upon then as a physical malady, and drastic measures were taken to cope with it. Everyone was supposed to take medicine in the spring, for the blood had to be purified. And the taking of medicine in those days was no light matter. The physicians and pharmacists had not yet invented pleasing or inoffensive pellets. As spring came on everyone took large doses of rhubarb, sulphur and molasses to clear the blood.

In those days there was some reason for speaking of "spring fever" and of regarding it as a physical disease. All through the winter people had lived almost wholly upon greasy, starchy or sweet foods. They had no green vegetables or fruits to balance the diet and, by the time the fresh vegetation came in April, May, or June, many suffered from impaired health.

Conditions are different now. A balanced diet is possible the year around, and one who falls behind with his work during the spring months cannot give the "spring fever" excuse.

The chief trouble now is not a seasonal disease, but a competition of interests. Indisposition to work this month comes largely from the fact that there is so much else one would rather do. All sorts of games and of recreation beckon to us, to the young and the old.

Especially in the school there is a tendency to slip. The one who follows the line of least resistance will

listen to the voices that call him from his duties and will lie down on his job. Most students are probably falling down a little just now in the quality of their work. As the end of the year approaches many of them lag somewhat, just as a runner who lacks strength or drive slows down in the last lap.

The tendency of the average student to fall back during the last weeks of the school year gives opportunity to those who are strong, energetic and determined. When so many are lowering their standards, the student who really cares about becoming a leader has a better chance than ever before. If his record is excellent to the very end of the term, he will occupy a place of distinction.

I am not suggesting that one should wish to rise above his fellows just for the sake of occupying a superior position. I am merely telling what happens when some students slow down while others are ready for a final sprint.

The Story of the Week

NOTICE TO TEACHERS

Due to an oversight, the *Civic Leader* of May 10 failed to carry an announcement stating that it was the last issue of the school year. Publication will be resumed in September.

The Railroads

As we go to press, the unions—or brotherhoods—of certain key railway employees are threatening to begin a strike on May 11. They demand wage increases, and changes in working rules, which the rail companies are not willing to grant.

The disagreement began last year. During recent months United States government officials have been trying to help the two sides reach a settlement. A fact-finding board, appointed



CASUALTY NOTICES, posted after the Jewish-Arab fighting in Palestine

by President Truman, not long ago suggested railroad wage increases of 15½ cents per hour, and 15 changes in working rules.

The railway companies were willing to grant this much, and most of the unions were willing to accept it. The Switchmen's Union and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, however, insisted on a larger pay increase and more rule changes. Together with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers they made plans for a strike.

A similar controversy, in May 1946, brought on a railway strike which, though brief, had paralyzing effects upon the nation's economy. The work stoppage two years ago was broken up when President Truman asked Congress for authority to take drastic action against the strikers.

It is to be hoped that this time an agreement can be reached before a strike actually begins—that before this paper reaches its readers the crisis will have been averted.

Dispute Over Appointments

One of the most vital agencies of the United States government is the five-man Atomic Energy Commission, which is in charge of the development of atomic energy for both peacetime and military use. Its members are appointed by the President with the approval of the Senate.

Last year the Senate, after a bitter controversy, approved President Truman's appointments for this Commission, but the terms of the officials

chosen expire this summer. Last month Mr. Truman sought to reappoint the same men, including David Lilienthal, chairman of the group.

This time, under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, their terms are to be "staggered," that is, each is to be for a different length of time, so that the membership of the Commission cannot change all at once. President Truman recommended a five-year term of office for Lilienthal, and shorter periods, ranging from one to four years, for the others.

These reappointments stirred up a new dispute between the Truman administration and some of the Senate leaders. A number of Republican lawmakers, headed by Senator Taft of Ohio, feel that if another President is inaugurated next January he should be free to choose a new list of commissioners.

The Democrats, naturally, are almost solidly behind Truman on this issue, although some Republicans support them. They argue that appointments to this agency should be on a non-political basis. They say that uncertainty on the part of atomic officials might hold back progress in this all-important field.

Margarine Bill

The House of Representatives has voted to repeal the federal taxes on oleomargarine, and has sent the bill to the Senate. By the time these words appear, that body may have acted on it.

The margarine controversy is an old one. For many years the government has levied taxes on margarine, which is made of vegetable oils and other ingredients. In recent years there has been increasing pressure to repeal the taxes. The present bill—seemingly "killed" some weeks ago by a House committee—was forced to the House floor by means of a petition circulated among the Congressmen.

Debate on the measure cut across party lines. Congressmen from many of the large cities favored repeal of the taxes as did most southern representatives from states which produce the oil used in the making of margarine. These groups argued that repeal



TRANS-JORDAN TROOPS in training. The nation's King Abdullah is leading the Arab military movement against the Jews in Palestine.

of the taxes might help lower the cost of living. Another argument advanced was that such taxes discriminate against the makers of margarine and give an unfair advantage to the makers of butter.

Congressmen from the dairy states—where butter is a leading product—led the opposition to the repeal of the taxes. They argued that repeal of the laws against margarine would have far-reaching, harmful effects on farm economy, and said that it might "open the doors" to fooling the public on imitation foods.

Even if the Senate and President Truman approve the bill, many housewives will still not be able to get margarine without restrictions. More than 20 states have legislation of one kind or another against the vegetable product.

Compromise Plan

Congress and the nation's defense leaders have been studying a number of different proposals on ways to increase the manpower of the armed forces and the military reserves. In March, President Truman recommended two separate programs: a temporary draft law to provide more combat troops immediately, and uni-

versal military training for teen-age young men, to develop adequate reserve forces. The universal training measure, which Mr. Truman had requested on previous occasions, met stronger opposition than did the draft.

Lately a compromise plan has been developing, apparently with President Truman's approval. If the new proposal goes into effect, men between the ages of 18 and 25 will be drafted into the armed forces. The younger ones, instead of being placed in special UMT camps, will serve and be trained in ordinary military units with the older recruits.

However, men between the ages of 18 and 19½ will not be sent outside the United States except in case of war, and they will be released after one year of service. Older draftees could be sent anywhere, and must serve for two years. The younger men, after their year in uniform, will be placed in organized reserve or National Guard units.

In Congress, particularly in the Senate, there has appeared to be considerable support for this plan. A great deal of uncertainty remains, though, on what type of draft legislation, if any, will actually be adopted.

Good Steel News

At the beginning of May, price reductions went into effect on a variety of the products of U. S. Steel Corporation. According to its president, the lowering of prices is an attempt to curb living costs and lessen inflation. The reduction may result in lower prices for such steel products as nails, wire fencing, washing machines, furnaces, automobiles, and others. Several other steel companies have announced similar price reductions.

This is the second widely publicized change in the price of steel to take place this year. The first came in February when the prices on certain types of steel were boosted. At that time the steel industry was widely criticized for its action. It was pointed out that the industry had made exceptionally large profits the previous year and that the increase of prices might cause workers to seek another pay raise, thus further increasing inflation.

This criticism may have influenced the American steel industry in its latest action. At the same time that it



U. S. STUDENTS BROADCAST to Germany on the Voice of America

announced price reductions, U. S. Steel rejected a request for a wage increase for its workers. The company announced that the price reduction actually amounted to a wage increase of five cents an hour. The union's stand was that the company could make a larger price reduction and still be able to increase wages. However, no strike is expected now since the present contract still has a year to run.

Election Day in Korea

Today—May 10—the long-awaited elections in Korea are scheduled to take place. Since January a United Nations Commission has been making arrangements for the balloting which is intended to be the first step in setting up a national government for that former Japanese possession on the mainland of Asia.

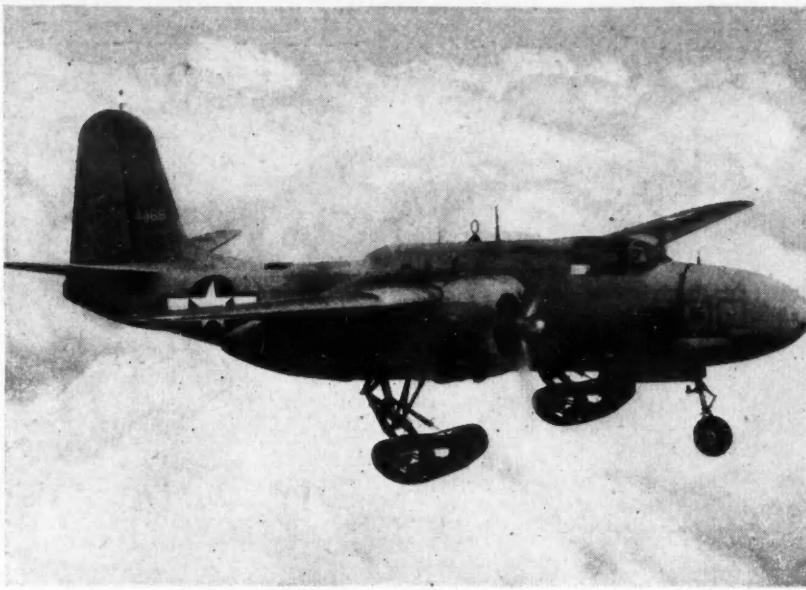
Russia has opposed the plan from the beginning, and consequently the voting will take place only in Southern Korea—the American occupation zone. Northern Korea—occupied by Soviet troops—has refused to allow the commission to enter.

During the past four months the UN group has been constantly hampered by Communist opposition. More than 350 people—including several election officials and two Assembly candidates—have been killed in rioting since the beginning of the year. Despite Communist disapproval, more than 90 per cent of the eligible voters in Southern Korea have registered for the elections.

"I Am an American"

Next Sunday—May 16—has been designated by President Truman as "I Am an American Day." On or about that date many states and cities throughout the country are expected to honor those who have become full-fledged citizens during the preceding year. Public ceremonies will observe the occasion.

Among the persons to be honored in the day's observances will be those foreign-born who have become naturalized citizens during the previous 12 months, and young people who have recently reached the age of 21 and have thus assumed the full responsibilities of voting. It is estimated that some 1,400,000 persons will fall into



AN A-20 HAVOC with track-type landing gear. The apparatus is being tested by the Air Force, and may make it possible for planes to land on rough ground, sand, or snow.

one or the other of these classifications.

"I Am an American Day" has been observed annually since 1940 as a day of thankfulness for the rights and privileges of citizenship.

Sports Film

"Kings of the Olympics" is an unusual full-length movie which will interest many sports fans. It is composed of outstanding shots of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The pictures have been so skillfully edited that much of the excitement of the competition is retained. Sports Expert Bill Slater gives a running commentary.

The original films were taken by official German cameramen who hoped to use the shots to glorify the Nazi regime. However, the failure of the Germans to win any of the track events proved something of a blow to the Nazis in their propaganda efforts. Miscellaneous shots that were intended only to glorify the Hitler government have been cut from the film. The result is an exciting movie for sports enthusiasts.

U. S. Highways

America's 3 million miles of roads are badly in need of repair. Experts think that it will cost more than a bil-

lion dollars this year to get them back into good shape. That sum will be the largest ever expended on our highways in a single year.

Several factors have contributed to the bad conditions of the nation's roads. During the war a shortage of materials and a scarcity of workers almost stopped highway repair. In 1947 about 3 million more motor vehicles used the roads than ever before, and there has been a resultant increase in wear and tear. The severity of the weather last winter brought about added damage.

About 22 per cent of America's roads are paved. The remainder are of gravel and dirt. The majority of the paved roads have surfaces of asphalt.

World's Biggest Business

The world's biggest business—the U. S. Post Office Department—is hard hit by inflation. It has not raised the postal rates since before the war, but the operating costs of the Department have mounted tremendously. As a result, the Department will probably spend this year at least 350 million dollars more than it receives. The deficit will have to be made up out of tax revenue.

Impartial observers agree that the Post Office Department is operated efficiently—but say it is a helpless victim of rising prices. The cost of trucks has doubled—and the Department operates 60,000 of them. Mail boxes cost three times as much as they did, and some paper used by the Department has increased four times in price. Payments to railroads and air lines for transporting mail have jumped. Meanwhile, postal charges have not been increased, and some of them—air mail, for example—have been lowered.

Postmaster General Donaldson has asked Congress to raise the postal rates in order to get the Department out of the red. However, it is unlikely that the lawmakers will make such a boost this year. Many of them fear that raising the postage would not be good "politics" and might harm their chances for victory in November.

61 Million Jobs

Government labor experts are predicting that about 61 million people in this country may have jobs this sum-

mer—the highest total in history. Even then there may be a labor shortage. The European recovery plan and defense program are both expected to make the labor "pinch" even more severe.

At present there is practically no unemployment in the country. Some people are temporarily out of work, but labor experts say that if these individuals wanted to move to other sections of the nation, they, too, could find employment. Jobs are available within the country for about everyone who wants them.

Employment figures are usually highest during midsummer when crops are being harvested. At that time it is expected that some 50,000 or more workers will be brought into this country from Mexico to help out temporarily in farming areas. However, even then, farmers in many sections may not be able to hire help they need during the critical harvest season.

The European Recovery Program will stimulate employment in virtually all fields—farming, manufacturing, shipping, railroads, government, and others.

SMILES

Customer (after trying out a used car): "This car jerks terribly when it's put into gear."

Salesman: "Well, that proves it's a good car. It is anxious to get started."

★ ★ ★

Sweet young thing (in traffic court): "I had to run into the fence to keep from hitting a cow."

Judge: "Was it a Jersey cow?"
Sweet young thing: "I don't know. I didn't see its license plates."



"What's so remarkable about it? All he keeps getting is rejection slips."

The weatherman had been wrong in his predictions for three straight months. At last, he sent in his resignation, saying, "I can't stand this town any longer. The climate doesn't agree with me."

★ ★ ★

First Farmer: "I don't like the way that horse I bought from you always keeps his head down."

Second Farmer: "He's showing his shame on account of not being paid for."

★ ★ ★

"Why is it," asked the irritable customer, "that I never get what I ask for in this store?"

"Perhaps, madam," replied the clerk, "it's because we're too polite."

★ ★ ★

Two Communists who were working at a polling place in the recent Italian election began fighting each other when it was announced that only one Communist vote was cast in their entire precinct.

★ ★ ★

A hotel manager, hearing of the whereabouts of a guest who had left without paying his bill, sent him the following note: "Dear Mr. Skipper: Will you please send the amount of your bill at once."

In a few days, the manager received this note from the non-paying guest. "The amount of the bill was \$22."



"GREEN GRASS OF WYOMING" is one of the Flicka series of movies. Its story and the Technicolor filming will entertain audiences throughout the country.

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World Panorama

(Concluded from page 1)

cost \$5,300,000,000—supplied by the United States. The countries which are banded together both to receive this aid and to help each other are:

Great Britain, France, Eire, Iceland, Belgium (identified on the map as B), the Netherlands (N), Luxembourg (the tiny area lying between Germany, France, and Belgium), Norway, Sweden, Denmark, western Germany, western Austria (A), Turkey, Greece (G), Italy, Switzerland (shown but not named), and Portugal.

How completely will the European Recovery Program succeed during its first year of operation? Will it keep all the countries taking part from falling under Communist control? Will the results of the first year encourage the United States to give ERP strong backing for an additional three years, as the plan calls for? These are the big questions involved in the recovery program.

Among the ERP countries, there are some which are working together in still other ways. Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are members of a special group called the Union of Western Europe. They have signed a treaty agreeing to work closely together not only for recovery, but also in defense. They hope that neighboring lands may later decide to join their alliance.

If serious trouble occurs in western Europe later this year, it may strike either in Germany or in Scandinavia. The line which divides the continent between the communist-controlled east and the anti-communist west passes directly through Germany. Berlin, which lies in the eastern half, has been the scene of sharp disputes in recent weeks between Russia on the one hand and Britain and the United States on the other.

Scandinavia is a trouble spot because it is so close to Russian-controlled areas. Norway and Sweden in particular fear that Russia may demand closer cooperation of them—perhaps a defense treaty such as the Soviet Union recently compelled Finland to sign.

2. The countries of eastern Europe which are under the control of Russia are Poland, eastern Germany, eastern Austria (A), Yugoslavia, Hungary (H), Czechoslovakia (C), Albania (shown at southern end of Yugoslavia, but not named), Bulgaria (B), Romania, and Finland. Finland is the only one whose government is not in the hands of the Communists but, like the others, she has to follow the lead of the Soviet Union in foreign policy.

Russia has all these lands lined up to join her in case of war. She is also requiring them to work together in a recovery program which is directed from Moscow. The Russians felt it necessary to set up this program after they ordered the small countries of eastern Europe not to take part in the ERP of western Europe.

3. Spitsbergen, a group of islands in the Arctic Ocean, is owned by Norway, but Russia has the right to mine coal there. What the Russians would like most, however, is to have military bases on the islands. Norway hopes she can resist this demand.

4. Like Scandinavia, Greece and Turkey are in the danger zone between the communist east and the anti-communist west. The governments of both countries are receiving American military aid to help them resist Communist foes both inside and outside their national borders.

Greece is in danger because her Communist neighbors would like to bring her within their group and under the control of Moscow. They have been giving aid to the Greek Communists who are waging war against the Greek government.

The threat to Turkey comes more directly from Russia, which would like to control the waterways connecting the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. Since the war, the Soviet government has demanded bases on Turkish soil for this purpose, but the Turks have not given in. There is always the fear that Russia may suddenly decide to make a stronger, more threatening demand.

5. Palestine is in the midst of an armed conflict between Jews and Arabs, who are at odds over the future control of the tiny land. The Arabs want it to be entirely under Arab

control, while the Jews desire approximately half of it as an independent, Jewish homeland. The Jews accepted the partition plan which was agreed upon by the United Nations, but the Arabs are forcefully resisting the attempt to put the plan into effect.

6. The Arabs of the entire Middle East are aroused over the Palestine conflict. Their lands are weak for the most part, but are important for two reasons. First, they lie at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and therefore are on important transportation routes. Second, they have some of the world's richest oil fields, and larger countries compete for the chance to buy the petroleum.

These countries are banded together in the Arab League. The members are Syria, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

7. The two new nations into which the old India was carved—Pakistan and the Dominion of India—do not get along well together. The Indian peninsula is therefore an area in which conflicts may flare from time

to time until the two lands gradually develop greater cooperation between themselves.

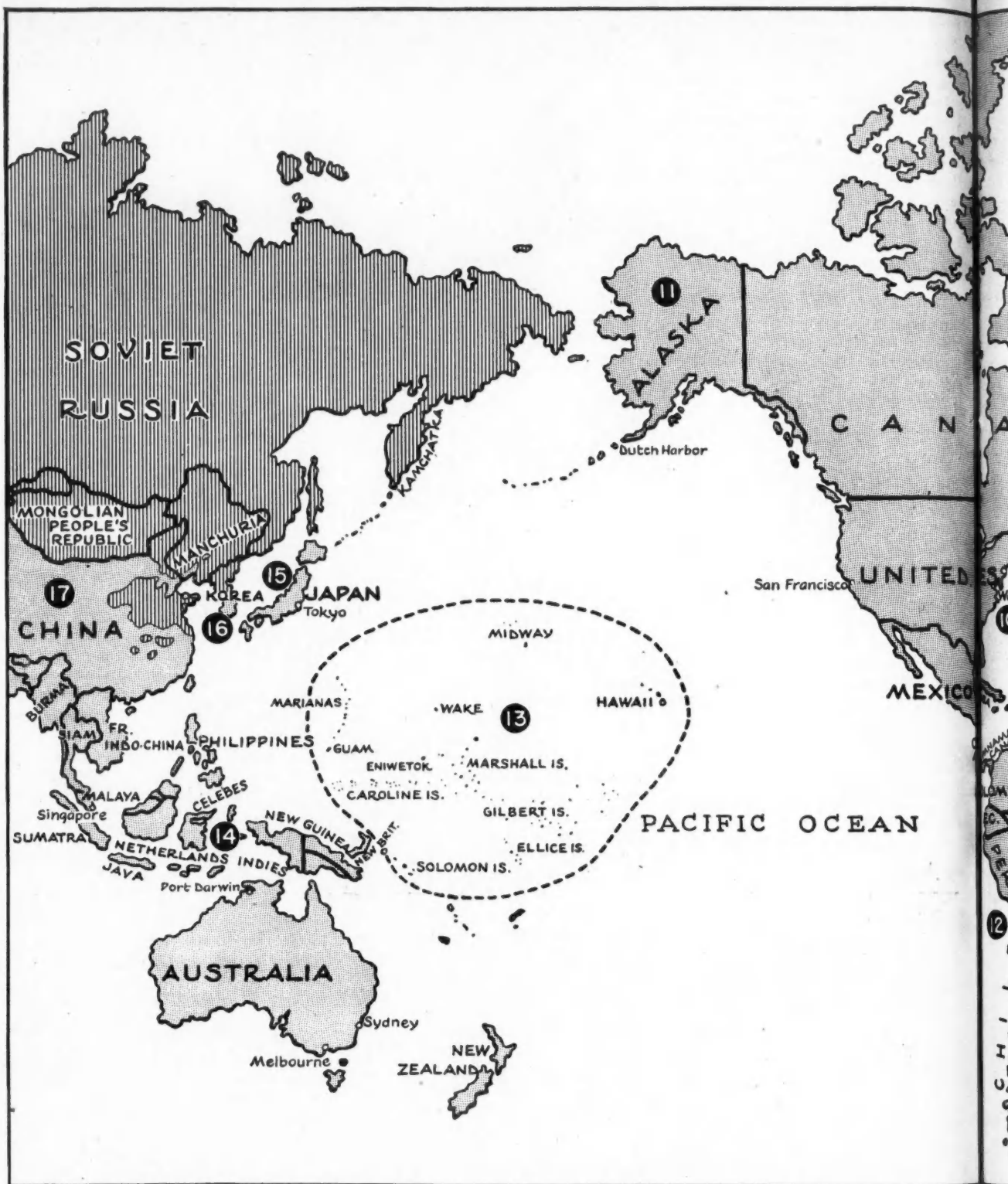
8. Both Britain and the United States are strengthening military bases in Africa for use in case of war with Russia. Britain also is developing the resources of her colonies on that continent, for they are the largest and richest of her remaining overseas possessions. She is looking to them as a new source of raw materials.

9. Iceland and Greenland were valuable air bases in World War II, and would be used for the same purpose in a future war. If it were a conflict between the United States and Russia, the two islands would be highly sought after by both countries.

Once the possession of Denmark, Iceland is now an independent nation. Greenland, however, is still a Danish territory.

10. The rest of the world is keenly interested in the outcome of the 1948 Presidential race. The victor will direct our international affairs during the next four years.

Foreign nations also look to the United States as the land in which the





- headquarters of the United Nations are located. Since its organization in 1945, the UN has been weak and ineffective, mainly because the most powerful members have not been willing to work together. Will the UN be discarded, or will an attempt be made to strengthen it as the guardian of world peace? Millions of people are waiting for the answer to that question.
- Finally, we know that the United States is a rich and powerful nation. As a result, people everywhere watch our nation's actions closely. They know that what we do may affect them. Our aid to other countries, the amounts we spend for defense, our prosperity itself—all of this is important in the news of the world.
- In case of war between the United States and Russia, Alaska would be in the thick of the conflict. For that reason, our country is anxious to keep Alaska well defended. Meanwhile, the territory is being considered as a possible new state of the Union.
 - Despite some rivalries among nations of the Western Hem-

- isphere, on the whole there are good relations in this part of the world. Most of the countries are interested in cooperating on matters of trade and defense. All are opposed to Communism.
- The United States is maintaining a number of military bases on islands in the Pacific. In any war which might be fought in the South or Central Pacific, these bases would be of vital importance. Of all the small islands, Eniwetok (eh'nee'weh-tok) is rapidly becoming the best known, because it is the testing ground for American atomic weapons. We shall therefore hear mention of the island from time to time, even though we are not told much of what happens there. By far the most important and valuable of the lands in the Pacific, however, are the Hawaiian Islands. Their people hope that this is the year in which the islands may be permitted to become a state.
 - The desire for complete independence is strong among the people who live in the many islands between the Philippines and Aus-

- tralia. The Netherlands Indies, which takes in most of these islands, is gradually moving toward its goal of freedom, and for that reason has been fairly peaceful in recent months. Fighting might break out, though, if this progress were to be upset.
- American occupation of Japan is continuing. Our government is trying to establish and strengthen democracy in Japan, and at the same time help the country recover from the war. Finally, we want to keep it from falling under Russian control.
 - Korea remains a divided land—the northern half controlled by Russia and the southern by the United States. At present, there is no sign of change in this arrangement.
 - The outlook for China is as dark as ever, with her people locked in civil war. The United States is sending some aid to the Chinese Nationalist government, headed by Chiang Kai-shek. Meanwhile, the Chinese Communist forces show no signs of weakness, and are holding fast to Manchuria and to large areas of China proper.

Study Guide

Television

- Give illustrations to show how television has grown during the last few years.
- How soon do broadcasters expect to have video networks linking the East and West coasts?
- Name one factor that has tended to keep a great many individual families from buying television sets. How is this factor being overcome?
- What telecasting difficulty has slowed down the industry's growth? How may this be overcome?
- How may video become an aid to education?
- In what way may television affect family life?
- Why are movie officials unwilling to permit the broadcasting of new films over television?

Discussion

- What, in your opinion, can be television's most important contribution to American life? Give reasons for your answer.
- What types of television programs do you think should be emphasized by broadcasters? Explain.

World Panorama

- Name ten countries of Western Europe that are cooperating under the Marshall Plan.
- Why is Spitsbergen a point of possible conflict?
- List seven European countries that are dominated by Russia.
- Give two reasons to explain Africa's importance in today's news.
- Why are foreign nations interested in developments that may take place in the United States during the next few months?
- What is the present situation in the Netherlands Indies?
- Are Communist forces in the conflict with the Nationalist government in China showing any signs of weakness?

Discussion

- Which of the areas discussed in the article on world affairs do you think offers greatest hope of solving its difficulties within the not too distant future? Explain.
- In which area do you think the situation is most grave? Give your reasons.

Miscellaneous

- What are the points at issue in the dispute between the railway brotherhoods and companies?
- Briefly discuss the compromise proposals concerning the draft and universal military training.
- What encouraging step has recently been taken by the U. S. Steel Corporation?
- What kind of trouble is the "world's biggest business" having? Why?
- What dispute is taking place over the re-appointments of members of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission?
- Why was President Arthur's administration a surprise?
- What sea can be called the Mediterranean of the Air Age?

Outside Reading

- "Television Reaches Stage of Big-Volume Business and Mass Entertainment," *Business Week*, January 10, 1948. A survey of television—past, present, and future.
- "Television—You Can Have It!" by Charles L. Sherman, *The Rotarian*, March, 1948. A humorous article on the effects of television on one family.
- "Television on the Move," *Business Week*, February 28, 1948. Growth of television networks.
- "Television Moves In," by Albert D. Hughes, *Christian Science Monitor Magazine*, December 27, 1947. A summary of the progress in television.

Television Advances

(Continued from page 1)

ing even more rapid strides than it is if it were not for the fact that the average video station can reach no farther than about 50 miles (some can reach from 75 to 100; others no more than 30 to 40). This is because television waves go straight off into space instead of following the curvature of the earth.

Unless new methods are devised, sending stations like those now in use will need to be thickly scattered over the country if television is to be put within reach of all the American people. It may be possible, of course, to extend the distance over which television programs can be sent from a single station.

Among other plans being considered is the possibility of transmitting video programs from airplanes flying in the stratosphere. Waves picked up by these planes from ground stations could probably be broadcast over a distance of 200 miles. It is estimated that 15 such transmitter planes, correctly placed, would put television within reach of about three-fourths of the U. S. population. There are, however, problems yet to be solved before this can be done.

In addition to the big cost involved in building numerous stations, the pioneers in this field are also faced with the fact that television broadcasting equipment is very expensive—much more so than that used by radio. In order to be profitable, therefore, a video station must reach a large

enough audience to make business concerns willing to pay the station large sums for advertising. Localities with small populations must, for this reason, expect to wait quite a while for the new type of entertainment.

Despite all the obstacles still to be overcome, television already offers a wide variety of programs to those homes it now serves. There are lecturers who give demonstrations on cooking and other practical subjects, panel discussions, and news broadcasts illustrated with maps and photographs. Newsreels taken especially for television are often shown. Certain prominent radio performers now have television programs as well as their radio broadcasts. Some plays are presented, but it is very expensive to produce a play for the limited number of performances that it can have over the country's video stations.

Television devotes large portions of its time to movies and sports broadcasts. In both these fields, however, there are difficulties. It is practically impossible for the television studios to get recent, high-quality films, because movie companies are afraid that telecasting their pictures will reduce theater attendance.

Certain sports promoters, likewise, are beginning to fear that fans, instead of attending athletic contests, will remain at home and watch these events by television. For this reason television stations are having trouble in making arrangements for

broadcasting some athletic events.

Many observers doubt that television will take customers away from such forms of entertainment as the theater and sports events. People like the excitement of being in a crowd, it is said. They probably will continue attending the theatre, for instance, in order to be with other people.

In the case of sports, television is likely to produce a big crop of new



ARTURO TOSCANINI, famous conductor who has been telecast with the NBC Symphony Orchestra, tunes in on a video program on his own set.

fans—men and women who will develop an interest in baseball, basketball, football, and boxing matches from watching them over television, and will then want to see the actual events. That is what radio did, and television may have the same effect.

Until movie officials become convinced, however, that television will not harm their business, video broad-

casting companies will rarely be able to get up-to-date motion pictures. Some television promoters are thinking in terms of producing their own movies.

Television, as its use becomes more widespread, may be expected to make important changes in American life. It may, for example, encourage families to spend larger portions of their leisure time at home. Ever since the automobile came into use, there has been a growing tendency for people to go away from their homes for recreation.

Television, if its programs are made attractive enough, may reverse this trend. People will probably stay home more of the time, despite the fact that television will, as we have pointed out, stimulate their interest in a wider variety of sports and other outside activities.

Television is also expected to become an important tool of education, both in the classroom and in the home. Students can, for instance, get a first-hand view of their government at work—of the President signing a bill, of Congress debating a proposed law, of scientists at work in government laboratories, of men training to become FBI agents.

By means of television millions of people eventually will be able to visit national parks, wander through the rooms of Mount Vernon, and stop at Independence Hall. They will take tours of steel mills, automobile factories, textile plants, and other great industries. They will visit the bustling streets of a city and the fertile

(Concluded on page 8)

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Cut along this line if you wish to save the test for later use. This test covers the issues of January 12, 1948, to May 3, 1948, inclusive. The answer key appears in THE CIVIC LEADER for May 10.

The American Observer Semester Test

PART ONE: NEWSMAKERS. Each of the following items describes one of the men pictured below. Match the items and the pictures in this way: If item No. 1 describes picture No. 3, write "3" as your answer to item No. 1 on your answer sheet. (One picture number will not be used.) Value: 1 point per item; total for section, 3 points.

1. Elder statesman and adviser to U. S. presidents.
2. Candidate for Presidency on independent, third-party ticket.
3. President of Argentina.
4. Former governor of Minnesota.
5. President of Turkey.
6. U. S. Senator from Michigan.
7. Secretary of National Defense.
8. Director of European Recovery Program.

PART TWO: MULTIPLE CHOICE. For each of the following questions and incomplete statements, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet. Value: 3 points per item; total for section, 36 points.

1. According to a report of the Air Policy Commission, the American Air Force is (a) sufficiently large to protect the country today, (b) not large enough for our defense if we should be attacked now, (c) the strongest air force in the world.

2. There has been a shortage recently of gasoline and other petroleum products. The reason is that (a) the oil has been used up, there are insufficient reserves, and the shortage will therefore be permanent; (b) though there is a large supply of oil on hand, there is not enough equipment to move oil and gasoline in sufficient quantities from refineries to the places where they are sold and used; (c) too much of the present output is being used to supply the growing airplane industry.

3. One of the purposes of the proposed federation of western European nations is to (a) enable these western European nations, by working together, to control the United Nations, (b) enable these countries more easily to break down trade barriers and resist communism, (c) prevent the United States from becoming too powerful in European affairs.

4. If no candidate for President obtains a clear majority in the Electoral College, (a) a new election is called to choose a President, (b) the choice is made by the House of Representatives, (c) the man receiving the highest number of votes in the Electoral College becomes President.

5. According to General Eisenhower, the best way to avoid war on a permanent basis is (a) for the nations to form alliances, thus adding to their power, (b) for the people to pledge themselves not to take part in war, (c) to promote programs of education that will give citizens of each country an understand-

- ing of why wars are fought and why they should not be.

6. Most economists think that we are not likely to have a depression soon, such as we had beginning in 1929. One reason is that (a) there is still a shortage of many kinds of goods and the people's buying power is still great, (b) taxes have recently been greatly increased, (c) the prospect of world peace is growing brighter every day.

7. According to Henry Wallace, the United States should not have adopted the Marshall Plan of giving aid to Europe. Instead, this country should have (a) spent all the money it could obtain reducing the national debt, (b) turned relief money over to the United Nations and let the UN distribute it among the needy in Europe, (c) spent this money building up its military power.

8. Progress in Latin America has been slowed down because (a) there is a very bad land system, with relatively few people owning most of the cultivated agricultural areas, (b) most of the South American republics look to Europe instead of to the United States for leadership, (c) the United States has interfered with the liberty and independence of the South American countries.

9. The disease which takes more lives in the United States than any other is (a) cancer, (b) heart trouble, (c) pneumonia.

10. The recent elections in Italy represent a victory for the forces of (a)

- democracy, (b) monarchy, (c) fascism, (d) communism.

11. Among the more important bills before Congress this spring are measures to (a) strengthen our national defenses, (b) subsidize the merchant marine, (c) reduce the number of immigrants which may enter the United States in any one year.

12. Most of the people of Norway and Sweden want their countries to (a) enter into a military pact with the United States and Great Britain in opposition to Russia, (b) remain neutral, (c) line up with Russia if war should come between Russia and America.

PART THREE: DIRECT ANSWER QUESTIONS. For each of the following items, write the correct answer on your answer sheet. Value: 2 points per item; total for section, 22 points.

1. What country of the world has the greatest area?
2. Who is Foreign Minister of Great Britain?
3. Who is the President of Argentina?
4. The government of what country was most recently seized by the communists?
5. What country, controlling the Dardanelles, has been given military aid by the United States?

(Test concluded on back of this page)



1



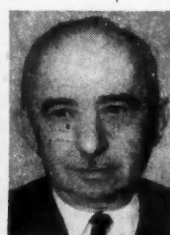
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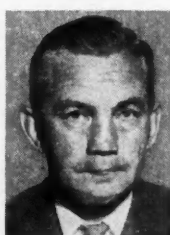
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American Presidents - - Garfield, Arthur

AFTER the disputed election of 1876, when Rutherford B. Hayes was named President, the Democrats gained in political strength. They won the congressional elections that followed two years later, and at the time of the next presidential contest, in 1880, they controlled both houses of Congress. Nevertheless, they failed to win decisive support for their candidate in the elections of that year, and a Republican, James A. Garfield, became President.



Garfield

Garfield, an Ohioan, had been a dark-horse candidate. The leading contenders for the nomination, Ulysses S. Grant and James G. Blaine, had become deadlocked at the national convention. Unable to decide between these two men, the delegates turned to Garfield, an outstanding orator and a party leader in the House of Representatives. Chester A. Arthur of New York was named as the vice presidential candidate. This ticket won the election.

Garfield held the presidency for only a short time. Four months after the inauguration, he was shot by a mentally deranged office-seeker. A few weeks later he died.

There was little in Garfield's early life to foretell his rise to the highest office of the nation. Born on a farm,

he belonged to a family of meager means. He went to Hiram and Williams Colleges, and was remarkably successful as a teacher. He turned to politics while in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Whether or not Garfield would have been a good President is a matter of speculation. He had enjoyed a successful, though not brilliant, political career. During his term in the House of Representatives, he had been an effective and popular leader, but he had not been associated with any constructive legislation. Garfield's honesty was not questioned, but he was inclined to follow the lead of the great captains of industry—a class then at the peak of its power.

Garfield's successor, Chester A. Arthur, furnished one of the big surprises of American history. As a political official in New York he had used public jobs as rewards for party loyalty. After he gave men these offices, Arthur put pressure on them and made it necessary for them to contribute substantial sums to the party's treasury. This practice finally led to his being removed from his position by President Hayes.

When Arthur himself came into the presidency, he changed completely. He attacked the spoils system with vigor, and laid the foundation for the present method of choosing public employees on the basis of civil service examinations instead of "political pull."

Arthur also laid aside his devotion to machine rule and attempted to look

upon the nation as a unit. He was concerned with securing results that would benefit all sections of the country. He became a champion of honesty and efficiency in government.

Governmental reform was the key issue of the period. President Hayes had initiated measures to check the spoils system, but President Arthur led a much more effective fight against it than his predecessor had. The tariff came to the fore during Arthur's administration, but the President lost his battle on this question. In spite of his appeals for reductions, Congress increased the taxes on goods brought into this country from abroad.



Arthur

In pushing federal reform, Arthur wrote an end to his own political future. He made enemies among the party politicians whom he fought. Unfortunately, he failed to gain the support of the voters of the nation—the people in whose interest he was working. He went about his duties quietly and efficiently, but he did not have the knack of coining popular phrases or of stirring the public's imagination.

Arthur was not nominated as his party's candidate to run in the election of 1884. When Grover Cleveland was inaugurated, Arthur retired to private life and died in 1886.



SENATOR BALL is interviewed for television

Television

(Concluded from page 7)

fields of a farm. Medical students in widely scattered classrooms can observe, by television, surgical operations that they would otherwise have no opportunity to see.

Television broadcasts of interviews with national and local officials can help to stimulate public interest in government. It can give the people a feeling of greater familiarity with their leaders. According to one radio official, "more Americans have seen President Truman by television in one evening than saw Lincoln during his entire residence in the White House."

This summer, large numbers of Americans will observe, on the video screen, the national political conventions in Philadelphia. The networks are planning to cooperate in broadcasting them as far as possible.

The American Observer Semester Test

(Concluded from preceding page)

6. What tribe of American Indians has been suffering extreme hunger and poverty?

7. What territory other than Alaska is asking for statehood?

8. In what South American country, noted for its peacefulness in the past, was there a revolt recently?

9. In what city will the Republican and Democratic national conventions be held?

10. Who is the newly appointed director of the European aid program?

11. What important change in the United Nations is being urged by a group of United States Representatives and Senators?

PART FOUR: PLACES IN THE NEWS.

Find the location of each of the following places on the adjoining maps. Write the number of the location after the corresponding number on your answer sheet. Value: 1 point per item; total for section, 16 points.

1. Bolivia
2. Germany
3. Greece
4. Peru
5. Chile
6. Panama
7. Spain
8. Netherlands
9. Colombia
10. Belgium
11. Czechoslovakia
12. Venezuela
13. Romania
14. Italy
15. Argentina
16. Brazil

PART FIVE: COMPLETION. After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word or words that best complete the statement. Value: 1 point per item; total for section, 13 points.

1. Two basic causes of international wars are (a) _____ and (b) _____.

2. The four nations that govern Germany are _____, _____, _____, and _____.

3. The United Nations has been successful in bringing about peaceful relations between the _____ and the _____.

4. Three important Republican Party candidates for the Presidency this year are _____, _____, and _____.

5. In order to get more manpower for defense, President Truman has asked Congress to approve _____ and _____.

PART SIX: VOCABULARY. In the following items, select the word or phrase which most closely defines the word in italics and write its letter on your answer sheet. Value: 1 point per item; total for section, 5 points.

1. The oldest member of the group continued his *vituperations* at the next

meeting. (a) interesting comments (b) supporting arguments (c) explanations (d) severe criticisms.

2. The speaker's *diffident* manner annoyed some members of the club. (a) bold (b) timid (c) irresponsible (d) sympathetic.

3. The student delivered his oration in *trenchant* language. (a) gentle (b) sharp (c) unconvincing (d) poetic.

4. The essay contained a number of *abstruse* statements. (a) obscure (b) confusing (c) incorrect (d) startling.

5. Everyone thought his action might *precipitate* a conflict. (a) settle satisfactorily (b) prevent (c) cause suddenly (d) overwhelm.

